



GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB LIMITED

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD VIA A ZOOM CALL ON TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER 2020 AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT: The meeting was attended by 105 Members including the Club's Patron, the Earl Bathurst.

WELCOME: The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, the first in the Club's history to be held digitally.

Also in attendance were Head Coach, Richard Dawson, and Members of the professional playing squad.

Before the formal business of the evening commenced, the Chief Executive reported that, since the last Annual General Meeting, the Club had been notified of the death of the following Members: Mr Roger Allen (former member of staff), Mr J Bailey, Mr M Blake, Mrs M Blake, Mr AD Brearley, Mrs BM Brickell, Mrs J Brown, Mrs J Cocks, Mr D Coombes, Mr T Davies, Mr Doug Davies, Mr Stanley Edwards, Mrs Sylvia Folley, Miss M Hart, Mrs Patricia Hibbert, Mr Derek Hobby, Mr Jeffrey Hordle, Mrs E Hoskin, Mr J Humphrys, Mr A Jones, Mr Paul Kitson, Mr Brian Knowles, Miss M Lane, Mr D Lemon, Mrs Shirley Main, Mrs Heather Palmer, Mr C Partt, Mr David Powell, Mr Dean Roberts, Mr David Sanders, Mrs Christine Sargent, Mrs Pat Savery (former member of staff), Mr Charles Short, Mr Richard Stewart, Mr P Stoddart, Mr Michael Stutter, Mr Geoff Swift, Mr George Tuckett (former member of Cheltenham staff), Mr Colin West, Mr Mike Woof and Mrs G Woolford.

All would be sadly missed.

The Chairman then paid a warm tribute to Mr AS (Tony) Brown who had represented the Club in many guises. Born in Bristol on 24 June 1936, he first joined the Club as a teenager and played for Gloucestershire from 1953-1976. Known as a no-nonsense leader, Brown was Captain of the Club from 1968 to 1976, his innings of 77 not out in the Gillette Cup Final win at Lord's against Sussex in 1973 seeing him collect the Man of the Match Award. Following his retirement from playing he became Secretary/Manager of the Club followed by spells as Secretary of Somerset and as Assistant Secretary of the TCCB at Lord's. In 1984 he was appointed Manager of the England Team that toured India and Australia in the winter of 1984/85. He was also Manager of the England Tour which toured the West Indies in 1986. He was Chairman of Cricket at Gloucestershire from 1999 to 2007, coinciding with the Club's successful run in One-Day competitions. He also served as President of the Club from 2008-2011. He was much admired and highly respected throughout the cricketing world and represented everything that was the very best of Gloucestershire Cricket. In agreement with his family, the Club proposed to hold a formal memorial event to honour his memory once the current Covid-19 restrictions had been lifted.

As this year's Annual General Meeting was being held digitally, it was acknowledged that observing the usual one minute silence in memory of those Members who had died during the last year would not be feasible. The Chairman assured Members, however, that this did not compromise the deep respect in which they were held.

Before moving to the main items on the Agenda, the Chairman detailed how in a recent Members' mailing the following Resolutions had been put before Club Members:

- a) To approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Gloucestershire County Cricket Club Ltd held on Tuesday 30 April 2019
- b) To accept the Financial Statements for the year ending 31 January 2020
- c) That the Constitution of the Club be amended by deleting rule 11.1 and replacing it with the following text: "The Executive Board shall be entrusted with formulating policy and the strategic aims of the Club and it shall meet at least six times a year or whenever the Chairman or Deputy Chairman think it advisable, or upon the written request of any three of its Members. 50% of the Members of the Executive Board shall form a quorum."
- d) To accept the appointment of Dr Timothy Brain, OBE and Mr Roger Cooke as Additional Vice-Presidents of the Club
- e) To re-appoint Messrs Saffery Champness as Auditors

He reported that each of these Resolutions had been approved by Members (and verified by the Club's Legal Advisers) and, as a result, there would not be a requirement for a proposer nor seconder during this evening's meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chief Executive read out apologies for absence from the following Members: Mr Christopher Henson, Mrs Valerie Henson and Mrs Angela Probyn.

2. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 30 APRIL 2019

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting dated 30 April 2019 were accepted as a true record, having previously been approved via a Resolution as mentioned above.

3. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chief Executive was pleased to report that during the past year the Club's Executive Board had been strengthened both by the appointment of new members who had been elected by the Membership and co-opted via a rigorous recruitment campaign. In addition, the Club's Executive Team had been joined by Mr Neil Priscott (Sales and Marketing Director) and Mr Piero Stobbia (Ground Operations Director). He also made mention of Mr Peter Hall (Ground Operations Manager) who had retired.

A major part of 2019 had been taken up by the Cricket World Cup; it had been a great honour for the Club to have been chosen as only one of two grounds in the country to host the group stages of both the men's and women's matches.

The Cheltenham Cricket Festival was once again notable; off the field it had proved to be one of the best attended Festivals for a number of years, the weather had been kind and the squad had enjoyed some memorable performances.

A large audience at the Bristol County Ground had enjoyed the Sir Tom Jones concert and the Chief Executive was optimistic that similar events could become an integral part of the Events Calendar going forward.

In terms of playing squad successes during 2019, on behalf of the entire Club, the Chief Executive congratulated Head Coach, Richard Dawson, the coaches and the team on not only reaching the quarter finals of the Vitality Blast once more but in securing promotion to Division 1 of the County Championship.

In addition, the Head Coach had been working closely with England Lions and oversaw their tour to Australia and India. As Members were no doubt aware, James Bracey had been included on both tours and crucially had been involved subsequently with the England "bubble."

Turning to the Club's financial statements, the Chief Executive reported on the challenges of the previous year. To have turned a deficit from the previous year of just below £430k into a surplus of £460k was a significant achievement.

Moving on to 2020. The Club started this year with First Division Cricket in its sights and a new Club Strategy was presented to the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) in March. A key thing was to align this strategy for the next 4-5 years with certainty against the funding the Club receives from the ECB. This funding guaranteed investment in certain areas and almost tripled the investment the Club was able to make into its Cricket Academy.

The Chief Executive then spoke of continuity and how the Club engages with audiences across Gloucestershire and Bristol, providing an environment in which people feel welcome (whether that be a partner or a commercial sponsor, or a visitor to the ground). In reflecting the views and values of the communities we serve he believed this was the way to build long term success for the Club both now and into the future.

In regard to the environmental side, the Chief Executive was proud to report that Gloucestershire CCC was currently the only cricket signatory in the UK to have signed up to the UN Sports and Climate Action Group (globally there is one other; Melbourne Cricket Club) and to have been recognised for that. As part of infrastructure enhancements at the Bristol County Ground, 13 electrical charging points and 125 bike racks had been installed and work was underway to ensure that any waste generated is zero to land fill. Additional water refill points are now operational with a view to dissuading visitors from bringing plastic into the ground. The Club had also purchased electric mowers for use by the ground staff; one of the very few First Class Counties to adopt such measures. The Chief Executive believed that these environmental endeavours were hugely important and it was hoped they would resonate with the communities we serve.

During the enforced Covid-19 lockdown, the Club continued with its Ground Redevelopment Programme. In particular, the redesign of the Thatchers Bar, installation of streaming cameras (which enabled many of the "behind closed doors" matches to be

shown on the Club's website for the enjoyment of Members and supporters) together with new picket fencing and additional street art. The Chief Executive was hugely disappointed that the Club had not been able to welcome Members to the ground personally this year but was excited for the season ahead.

The playing schedule had been a major debating point over the course of the year and it was hoped that many Members would have read the regular updates both the Chairman and Chief Executive had provided. Across the game there was a difference of opinion as to what cricket should be played; but first and foremost was the wellbeing and safety of the players, coaches and support staff. The ECB had been incredibly supportive of both county and recreational cricket during the pandemic, sometimes to the detriment of its own team and the Chief Executive said that we should all be very grateful for their leadership during this period of time.

He then described the challenges of delivering cricket during the Covid-19 pandemic and how the ground's conference facilities had been used to accommodate both home and away teams, given the limitation for social distancing the normal changing room facilities afforded. In addition, strict sanitation and monitoring measures had been introduced to ensure the safety of all staff and visitors to the ground.

The Bristol County Ground was now one of eight regional centres for Women's and Girls' Cricket around the UK and home to Western Storm led by Director of Women's Cricket for the region, Lisa Pagett. Western Storm and Women's and Girls' cricket will play a major part of the Club's strategy going forward and the Chief Executive was proud to say that when Members next arrive at the ground they will see that the sign on the gate says "Home of Gloucestershire Cricket and Western Storm."

The Chief Executive touched briefly on the Club's 150th Anniversary and how saddened everyone at the Club was that the many planned celebrations had not been able to take place. He was confident, however, that a full programme of events would be able to take place in 2021 following the challenges of this year.

In financial terms the Club was in a surprisingly healthy state and the Chief Executive expected to trade a break even position or report a small surplus for the year ending 31 January 2021. Prudent financial management coupled with a little bit of luck and some financial sacrifices had made that possible and he thanked all staff for their hard work in helping to make that happen. Members had also played a huge part in that and the Club was extremely grateful to all those who had donated their membership fees, which totalled some £100,000. The Club had received many goodwill texts, emails and telephone calls and on behalf of the Chairman, the Executive Board, and all members of staff, the Chief Executive thanked Members for their continued support.

The schedule for next year's International cricket programme remained uncertain. Until the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) had ironed out its schedule this would undoubtedly have a knock on effect in terms of delivering International cricket. It also had implications for the ECB in terms of finalising the domestic cricket programme. The ECB had reported a financial loss of over £100m this year and envisaged potentially losing over £90m next year. The Chief Executive predicted a number of challenges in the year ahead, most noticeably what crowds might or might not look like although he remained confident that Members and spectators would be allowed back in albeit with social distancing if that were still a requirement.

The Chief Executive then spoke of the new conference-style schedule for next year and how this was expected to be run.

In regard to the Cheltenham Cricket Festival, the Club remained in discussion with the College. Potentially the Festival could commence in early July ideally incorporating two 4-day red ball matches and two Vitality Blast matches with hopefully, depending on the schedule, the inclusion of a Western Storm fixture.

The Club recently bid farewell to Stuart Whittingham, Gareth Roderick and George Drissell. The Chief Executive thanked all three for the contributions they had made to the Club and wished them well for the future. In terms of investment, he welcomed the recent signing of Jared Warner and spoke of plans to further strengthen the playing squad over the coming winter.

In concluding his report, the Chief Executive returned to Club finances and spoke of being "cautiously optimistic." Looking forward there were risks across the game - if International cricket was lost, what appetite Members and supporters had to return to cricket or how sponsors and/or commercial partners felt in terms of their continued support going forward. He believed Gloucestershire Cricket had weathered the storm thus far with the Club being in a more fortunate position than many other cricketing counties. He once more paid tribute to Members for their support.

4. TO RECEIVE THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2020

The Honorary Treasurer, Miss Rebecca Watkin, summarised the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 January 2020.

2019 was a positive year for the Club from a financial point of view. The aim was to record a surplus that at least covered the deficit in 2018 and that had been achieved in generating a surplus of £460k.

In regard to Income, this had risen significantly and was attributed to two main factors; hosting a number of Men's World Cup Matches, generating £966k, together with an increase in funding from the ECB which went up by £554k. Another encouraging trend was an increase in BS7 income, which rose by 16% on the previous year.

Expenditure had increased across the board. In particular, expenditure on the squad went up by 12% last year, but an investment well made as the squad had gained promotion to Division 1 of the Championship. Investment in Facilities Maintenance rose by £231k – the Facilities Team now undertook more work in-house and had tackled a much needed maintenance backlog for the benefit of Members.

The Honorary Treasurer thanked those Members who had invested in the Debenture Scheme, which was a significant part of Club funding.

The Club continued in its quest to achieve a debt ratio of 1:1 and good progress was made last year in achieving a figure of 1:13. It was hoped that the goal of attaining 1:1 could be reached in the next financial year.

As for all businesses it had been a tumultuous year, and the Honorary Treasurer (in keeping with the Chief Executive) was confident that the Club would make a small surplus and she paid thanks to the careful financial management of Bernard Cooke (Finance Director) and his team who ensure that we draw down on all the support that has been offered by central and local government. Thanks were also paid to the ECB who had maintained its funding despite making huge losses centrally, which had not been passed on to Counties. All indications were that ECB funding in 2021 would not be cut, but beyond that there remained uncertainties so the Club's budget for next year would be set accordingly to ensure we can continue to develop without taking too bigger financial risks in these uncertain times.

The Chairman reported that the Financial Statements had previously been published on the Club's website and that Members had already approved them via the Resolution as referred to at the beginning of tonight's meeting. He then thanked the Chief Executive and Honorary Treasurer for their respective presentations and opened the meeting to general questions.

In answer to a question raised by Mr Martin Jones, a member of the Gloucestershire Exiles, the Chief Executive detailed the Club's environmental plans for the future.

Mr David Payne was disappointed that the Club had not produced a Year Book in this, its 150th Anniversary Year. The Chief Executive explained the rationale behind this decision and the move to a more environmentally friendly and sustainable approach to all of the Club's printed literature. He further explained that plans were in hand to produce a review of the year, which would be available to view on all the Club's social media platforms.

The Chief Executive acknowledged that attracting BAME (black, Asian and minority ethnic) supporters into cricket was a huge challenge, not just in Bristol and Cheltenham, but across the game as a whole. He referred to Tom Harrison, the Chief Executive of the ECB, who had spoken widely and openly about inclusivity and diversity within the game. This question had been raised by Mr Chris and Mrs Valerie Henson and the Chief Executive spoke of the direct link of having players from certain backgrounds and the impact they have on local communities. Mr Brown firmly believed that the game still had some work to do in this area and hopefully, as a collective, solutions would be found.

Mr and Mrs Henson also asked whether the Club had plans to install a roof over the Mound Stand or provide other areas of shade around the ground. The Chief Executive explained that this did form part of the Club's strategic plans going forward. In the meantime, he outlined the redevelopment currently taking place in and around the County Ground including the refurbishment of the Thatchers Bar, relocation of the external staircases adjacent to the Pavilion and inclusion of a new terraced area.

In answer to a question raised by Mr "PJ" Probyn, the Chief Executive detailed how the Club's plans for the live streaming of matches had been derived and how data collected from subscribers would be used. He further detailed the viewing figures. In addition, and again, in answer to a question raised by Mr Probyn, the Chief Executive spoke of the Cayman Islands Tourist Board – the Club's match stream digital sponsor - and how their sponsorship monies would be utilised in terms of marketing.

Mr David Jones, the Club's Deputy Chair, responded to a question raised by Mr Hugh Kilbride in regard to the new Hundred tournament. Mr Jones – who is also a member of the ECB Hundred Board – talked of the financial benefits to counties and the aim to bring a whole new audience into the game.

In answer to a question posed by Mr Alan Payne, the Chief Executive reported on the current situation in regard to the County Club and County Board merging. Although the plans had stalled, the relationship between the two entities remained strong and amicable.

5. HEAD COACH'S REPORT

The Chairman introduced the Head Coach, Richard Dawson.

Mr Dawson, who considered the country going into lockdown in April 2020, spoke of how pleased he was that any cricket was able to have been played at all this year and he thanked everyone involved at the Club for the efforts made behind the scenes to make that possible.

It was a season of challenge especially with the different formats. He referred to the Bob Willis Trophy in particular and how this had given the squad opportunities to play against First Division teams such as Warwickshire and Somerset together with Northants who had been promoted alongside Gloucestershire in 2019.

Turning to T20 cricket, he applauded Jack Taylor who had taken over the captaincy from Michael Klinger. Having competed with no overseas players had afforded opportunities to players they might not otherwise have had. It was also testament to the squad that their dedication and some outstanding cricket had secured their place at Finals Day.

As already mentioned by the Chief Executive, the Head Coach reiterated his thanks to George Drissell, Stuart Whittingham and Gareth Roderick for the contributions they had each made to the Club. They will be missed and he wished them well for the future. Jared Warner and Tom Lacey were welcomed and he congratulated James Bracey for his inclusion in the England International "bubble."

The Head Coach then spoke of overseas players and the wicket keeper situation, which was something he had been working on for a number of weeks. The International schedule will ultimately dictate which overseas players might become available to join the Club in 2021 especially when considering the on-going Covid-19 pandemic.

He then spoke of how the squad might be strengthened given the available cricket budget and the fact that more county cricket players might become available at the end of the 2020 season than would usually be the case. He did not rule out future loan deals nor bleeding our own players coming up through the Academy.

In answer to a question raised by the Chief Executive, the Head Coach described his time with the England Squad this year and how James Bracey had performed within the England set up.

Mr Dawson concluded his report by talking of his plans for the squad going into the 2021 season.

6. CHANGE TO THE CONSTITUTION AND RULES

The Chairman reported that the current Constitution and Rules of the Club required the Executive Board to hold at least 10 meetings per annum. He went on to explain the rationale of revising that number to 6 meetings per annum, and how Members had already approved this revision via the Resolution as referred to at the beginning of tonight's meeting.

7. ELECTION TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD 2020

The Chairman explained the rationale behind the Members' Ballot for the 2020 Executive Board Election Process. Three nominations for two places had been received: Mr David Graveney (former player), Mr David Partridge (current Board Member and former player seeking re-election) and Mr David Mclauchlan (current Board Member seeking re-election).

In accordance with Rule 11.15 of the Club's Constitution, no more than 2 (two) elected members of the Executive Board may have previously been employed by the Club (save that this does not apply to co-opted members of the Executive Board). As a result of the fact that the Executive Board already includes a former employee of the Club (Mr Matthew Windows), this left only one vacancy for a former employee.

The Chairman then introduced Mr James Bell of Messrs Barcan+Kirby (the Club's legal advisers) to announce the result of the ballot:

Mr Bell reported that all votes from Members had been counted and verified against the Members' Database. The result was that Mr David Graveney, having received the largest number of votes, was duly elected to the Executive Board alongside Mr David Mclauchlan.

The Chairman congratulated Mr Graveney on his election to the Board and Mr Mclauchlan on his re-election. He thanked Mr Partridge for putting forward his name and thanked him for his time on the Board. During his tenure he had been a tremendous advocate for Members, particularly those who resided in the North of the County.

Mr Partridge said it had been a privilege to have worked for the Club during the past three years as Gloucestershire County Cricket Club was very dear to his heart.

8. ELECTION OF ADDITIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

The Chairman announced that the Club wished to appoint Dr Timothy Brain and Mr Roger Cooke as additional Vice Presidents of the Club. He said that Members would remember both former Executive Board Members well; Dr Brain having been a former Deputy Chairman of the Club and Mr Cooke a former Honorary Treasurer and Chairman. Both these appointments had previously been approved by Members via the Resolutions referred to above.

9. TO APPOINT AUDITORS FOR THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR

Nomination: Messrs Saffrey Champness LLP.

The Chairman reported that this nomination had previously been put before Members in the recent mailing and that the Resolution had been approved. Messrs Saffrey Champness LLP were, accordingly, appointed as Auditors of the Club for the next financial year.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

In concluding the meeting, the Chairman acknowledged that this year had been a very difficult one; with only two months of play and with no crowds, he thanked the Chief Executive and his entire team for all the work they had done under the most difficult and trying of circumstances.

The Chairman also gave thanks to the Executive Board. He appreciated not only the range of Board Members but their individual skill sets and looked forward to what the future brings, however challenging that may be.

He also thanked all those Members who had attended this year's Annual General Meeting and was hopeful that next year's meeting would take place as normal in April.

Signed:

Dated: